the Chairmanship of Shri N .K. Singh, Member, Planning Commission with terms of reference regarding the evolution of a growth oriented fiscal policy for integrated development of the textile industry covering all its segments. The issues raised in Cll Accenture study are subsumed in the terms of reference. The Interim Report submitted by this Group dealing with a growth oriented tariffs and duties structure contained recommendations which have been taken into consideration in the Annual Budget 2002 of the Government.

Textiles Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme

4501. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a plan for the modernisation of 24 textile centres under the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme;

(b) whether the textile industry is facing severe competition not •only in exports but also in the domestic market due to imports from the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, how the modernisation Plan is expected to help in reviving the textile industry in the matter of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched in new scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)" for rejuvenating and plugging critical infrastructure gaps in predominantly textile/apparel sector areas to help the units located therein to become globally competitive.

(b) Although there is an increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc. and the textile imports have shown an increase, the total quantity imported is not significant. It is less than even 1% of our domestic consumption.

(c) One of the major perceived benefits to TCIDS is removal of impediments to production and to facilitate improvement in quality, productivity and operational flexibility to make the textile industry of the centres globally competitive so as to face competition in domestic and international markets. Therefore, the modernisation of textile centres under the Scheme along with other measures would result in increased exports especially in the post MFA era starting from 1st January, 2005.